

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ The CORONA West Coast Office offered a cost saving plan using the Atlas-Agena launch vehicle, a 30-day orbital mission with increased film, ~~and a~~ resulting ^{in a} reduced number of launches. The DNRO, however, decided to stick with the Douglas Thor, with a modest upgrading to allow for increased payload weight for a new Constant Rotator camera and an improved stellar index camera.

NRO review(s) completed.

through to July 1967 when first launch was anticipated.
However in ^{thermal altitude} ~~final~~ testing both the panoramic and stellar
index cameras had problems ~~during the maximum altitude~~ and
therefore the first J-3 Constant Rotator was delayed another
~~until 7-September-1967~~. six weeks. The first J-3 launch (Msn1101)
took place on 15 September 1967, and recovery of both
buckets was completed on 28 September. The J-3 was
considered an outstanding success from a technical stand-
point since all design goals were achieved. Problems
experienced on Msn 1101 were of a minor nature, correctable
before the next CR flight without any major rework, and
the performance was judged to be the best ever from a
CORONA system.